WILDERNESS RECORD

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION

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Sheep Mt. in southern California, see article on page 4

Sheep Mt. Task Force Photo

Conference Coming

The 1978 California Wilderness Conference will be held at Merritt College in Oakland, California onApril 28-30. The purpose of the conference is to tell participants about the current status of California Wilderness. Vital issues will be covered:For example, what are the current problems of wilderness? What are the future issues of preserving wilderness in California? How can groups work together to preserve wilderness? What are the politics involved in wilderness preservation?

David R. Brower will be the principal speaker. Well-known for his work with Friends of the Earth and the Sierra Club, Dave brings eloquence to wilderness issues.

Huey Johnson, Secretary for the Resources Agency for California, has been asked to talk about the state's attitude towards California wilderness. This is especially appropriate in view of the Brown Administration's recent letter to Congressman Krebs in support of inclusion of Mineral King in Sequoia National Park.

Other speakers including Dave Van de Mark, John Amodio, and Joe Fontaine will discuss wilderness issues particularly affecting various regions of California.

Panels will discuss such topics as the Forest Service Roadless Area Review and Evaluation II (RARE II), the off-road vehicle problem, wilderness management, and organizational and political tactics.

A portion of the program will be devoted to Alaska. While not directly a California issue, it is vitally important to the wilderness movement as a whole. Celia Hunter, staff of the Wilderness Society, and Peggy Wayburn, with the Sierra Club, will talk on Alaska.

In addition, there will be slide shows and exhibits presented by wilderness groups from throughout California. Music and entertainment will also be provided in the evenings.

Be sure to put April 28-30 on your calendar. This is a chance to find out what is happening in California wilderness, and to meet the people involved in wilderness from all over the state.

Registration

For more information, write the California Wilderness Coalition. Advanced registration is encouraged--space is limited. The $10 registration fee is to cover conference expenses. Any excess monies will be donated to the California Wilderness Foundation. Housing or camping arrangements are available and a cooperative childcare center will be open.

Shasta Group Battles Ski Corporation

The Mt. Shasta Resource Council currently seeks assistance in fighting Ski Shasta Corp. efforts to remove the finest Shasta red fir stand from the U.S. Forest Service proposed wilderness area. The Mt. Shasta Council proposal contains 41,000 acres. More informatin can be obtained by calling Phil Rhodes 415-456-6076 in the evenings or by writing Mt. Shasta Resource Council, P.OBox829 Mt. Shasta, Ca. 96067. Background to the problem is stated in this reprint from their newsletter of Feb. 6, 1978.

BACKGROUND

Last December, Orbell Apperson, Jr., publisher of the "Mount Shasta Herald" and planner for Ski Shasta Corporation, obtained a copy of Shasta-Trinity National Forest's proposed Mount Shasta Wilderness plan from Forest Supervisor Richard Pfilf. Apperson promptly published the map on the front page of the December 29 issue of the "Herald". The "Herald" noted that section 30, in the southwest corner of the proposed Wilderness, would effectively block the proposed Ski Shasta expansion plan.

On the night of January 4, 1978, a large avalanche rumbled down the ski bowl and ripped out five towers of the Green Butte chairlift, backbone of the existing Ski Shasta operation. Continued heavy snowfall, and the extent of damage made it a virtual impossibility to repair the lift before next summer. Apperson's paper proclaimed that Ski Shasta must move to the lower elevations of sections 25 and 30, in Cascade Gulch, to escape weather and avalanches.

THE PROBLEM

The two separate and seemingly unrelated events briefly described above gave Ski Shasta Corporation the excuses it needed to make the big push for major expansion of their facilities.

Ski Shasta wants an immediate go-ahead for building a ski area in section 25, one mile west of Horse Camp. This proposal would involve three chairlifts and a lodge within section 25, which is presently owned by Kimberly Clark Corporation, and an access lift over Forest Service land from a 1,000 car plus parking lot to be built at McBride Springs. This proposal alone does not affect the Forest Service Wilderness proposal as it currently stands. However, Ski Shasta is also asking that 400 acres of section 30, between Horse Camp and section 25, be eliminated from the Wilderness proposal, so that one or more additional lifts can be built there.

To achieve their goals,Ski Shasta Corporation, along with Chambers of Commerce, ski clubs, etc., in the area the Ski Shasta resort serves, have launched a major petition and letter writing campaign. They have sent Bob Roberts, head of the Far West Ski Association, to Washington to lobby. Letters are being directed to Senators Cranston and Hayakawa, and Congressmen Johnson and Clawson. In particular, letters are being aimed at John McGuire, chief of the Forest Service, because he has still to give his final

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Increased Timber Cutting Rejected in Poll

A survey conducted by the Opinion Research Corporation for the American Forest Institute polled 2,000 members of the general public and 100 Washington, D.C. leaders. TheAFI ordered the poll to assess the potential of a media campaign to increase public support for greater timber harvesting on federal lands.

By an overwhelming margin both the general public and the Washington leaders rejected a call for increased timber cutting. Instead, they asked for increased wilderness areas. The following is taken from the Opinion Research Summary report.

One in five said they had hiked on "accessible" trails in the last year; one in ten in "remote" areas. "Developed" campsites drew 20 percent, "remote" campsites 11 percent. More people expect to participate in each activity in the next year, with by far the largest growth expected in "remote" camping.

Generally, the public knows that wilderness areas are different from parks or recreation sites, and knows what the differences are. Overall, however, the differences don't appear to be overly important. Of those who expressed an opinion, 48% said they would not object to "some development" in wilderness areas; 38 percent would object. Here, again, the emphasis was on a recreational experience, not a pure "wilderness" experience.

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California Wilderness Coalition P.O. Box 429, Davis CA 95616

☐ Yes! I wish to become a member of the California Wilderness Coalition
Enclosed is $ for first-year membership dues.

☐ Here is a special contribution of $ to help with the Coalition's work.

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Zip: _____

ANNUAL DUES: *
(Note: one dollar of annual dues supports the *Wilderness Record*)

Individual	$ 6
Low-income individual	3
Patron	500
Non-profit organization	25
Sponsor (business)	25

*not tax deductible

President's Message

by Bob Schneider

The American Endangered Wilderness Act is now on the President's desk. By the time you read this message, Carter will have signed the Bill into law adding Golden Trout (306,000 acres), Santa Lucia (21,250 acres), and Ventana Additions (60,080 acres) to California's portion of the national Wilderness System. Certainly, a time to celebrate. A hearty thanks is in order to everyone who helped win the passage of this Bill.

Details of thepublicopinion polls recently conducted by Opinion Research Corporation for the American Forestry Institute, and the Fieldscope Survey and the Gallup Corporation Inc. for the Bureau of Land Management are reported elsewhere in this issue of the **Record.** The overall conclusion of these polls strongly supports Americans agreeing with the concept of wilderness, using wilderness and wanting to see more of California's wildlands protected. In particular, it concludes a mandate to the Bureau of Land Management from the American public to dramatically increase protection of the California Desert.

The B.L.M. must make a 180 degree change in course. The American people want protection for wildlife, ecology, historical areas and the general scenery and natural character of the desert. They want less roads and less places for off-the-road vehicles.

The planning for the California Wilderness conference is accelerating. It is going to be an exciting event with people coming from all over the state. This should be the biggest wilderness gathering of the year and anyone committed to California wilderness issues should plan to attend. Advanced registration is encouraged. Celebrate the American Endangered Wilderness Act and plan for the future of California's wilderness resource.

Mineral King- Farewell Canyon Trail to Proposed Golden Trout Wilderness

Photo by Bruce Barnbaum

The Three new Wilderness Areas

President Jimmy Carter gave Californians a belated Valentines's Day present in the form of three new wilderness areas. In late February the President signed into law the 306,000 acre Golden Trout Wilderness, the 60,080 acre addition to the Ventana Wilderness, and the 21,250 acre Santa Lucia Wilderness.

The three California areas were part of the larger Endangered American Wilderness Act.

Senator Alan Cranston worked especially hard to protect the three longstanding wilderness proposals. It took much effort by Cranston to ward off attempts by Senator S. I. Hayakawa to eliminate Golden Trout from any wilderness designation. Representatives Leon Panetta and John Krebs were also helpful in getting the areas through the House. The votes by other California Congress people on this bill will be reported in a future issue of the **Wilderness Record.**

Ventana Wilderness Additions

The 95,152 acre Ventana Wilderness was orginally established in 1969. The additions added another 60,080 acres to the wilderness.

The additions include Cone Peak-Coast Ridge Miller Canyon-Church Creek Canyon, Tassajara Creek, and the Santa Lucia Creek watershed.

The Cone Peak area is a diversified ecosystem including a substantial portion of the major coast ridge south of the present Ventana Wilderness. Below Cone Peak itself, elevations range from 500 to 5,000 feet less than 3 miles from the Pacific Ocean. The ridge area affers a breathtaking view of the coastline on one side and the rugged interior mountains on the other. Miller Canyon and Church Creek Canyon are easily accessible by trail and are used extensively. This area has stands of Santa Lucia fir on the ridges and grass in the canyons because of the two streams which run year round. The Santa Lucia Creek Canyon lies to the east and is separated from the present wilderness by a dirt road. The lower end of the canyon is deep and rugged and little used because of its inaccessibility.

Golden Trout Wilderness

The Golden Trout Wilderness is located within the Sequoia and Inyo National Forests immediately south of Sequoia National Park and within a three-hour drive of Los Angeles. The 306,000-acre area extends from the more gentle western slopes of the Sierra Nevada to the more precipitous ridges on the eastern side of the mountains. Elevations range from 5,000 to 12,000 feet.

At the heart of the Golden Trout area in Golden Trout Creek, the only native habitat of the California's State fish. This is a separate trout species which developed its unique golden brown coloring isolated from other trout in the remoteness of the creek. The area is also the home of the spotted owl and pine marten as well as more common wildlife such as deer, bear and coyote.

Santa Lucia Wilderness

The Santa Lucia Wilderness lies within and adjacent to the Los Padres National Forest in San Luis Obispo County, along the central coast of California. The area is basically a wild, rough highland with numerous outcroppings of rock. Except for three flat, gern-covered valleys, the area is mostly covered with trees. The Santa Lucia area contains the only stand of knobcone pine between Monterey and the San Bernadino Mountains, one of the most extensive stands of bigcone pine in existence, and fine groves of manzanita, canyon oak, tan oak, maple and sycamore.

Mineral King Bill

by John Modin, Co-Chairman of Mineral King Task Force

Legislation which would incorporate Mineral King into the National Park system took a giant step forward on January 25th with a decision by the Carter administration to support a bill giving national park status to Mineral King.

Interior and Agriculture departments have been at loggerheads on the Mineral King issue since late last year when Interior announced it would support legislation sponsored by Congressman John Krebs, D. California, which would add Mineral King to the National Park system. The agriculture department, backing down only insignificantly from the preferred alternative described in the environmental impact statement, supported a "scaled down" development, but as in earlier proposals failed to adequately address the negative impacts any large development would have either on Mineral King or the surrounding Sequoia National Park.

To provide even modest downhill skiing facilities at Mineral King would require major upgrading of the tiny single lane road traversing groves of giant Sequoia trees within Sequoia National Park. Ski lift towers, power lines, visitor accomodations and employee housing facilities would be clearly visible from within the Park regardless of the developments size, and increased vehicle emissions attendant with any increase invisitation would add to the already critical air pollution levels in the southern Sierra Nevada.

The interagency dispute between Agriculture and Interior over the management of Mineral King was resolved at the Office of Management and Budget favoring the Interior department and is the official position taken by the Carter administration. The decision substantially improves the outlook for this legislation becoming law this year and marks the successful passing of another major hurdle in this long fought environmental struggle.

However, it's urgently important that we keep this legislation moving. The 95th Congress is now in its second session—and any legislation not passed this year will die. We of course cannot let this happen to Mineral King.

Please—write your congressman, House Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20515 and your senator, Senate Office Bldg., Washington D.C. 20510. Ask that House Interior Committee Hearings on HR 1771 and Senate Subcommittee Hearings on S. 88 be held immediately. Express the urgency of keeping this legislation moving and ask for wording changes specifically **dis**allowing downhill skiing once park status is acquired. Donations and requests for more information are available through the Task Force at Box 5396, Fresno, Ca. 93755.

Coast Proposal

A group of citizens are seeking a "State Wilderness" designation for 11,600 acres (14 coastal miles) of land now called Sinkyone Wilderness State Park. Presently, there is a secure 3,500 acres. Proposals will be considered on April 14th in Eureka.

More data on the legal, anthropological, sociological, etc. status of this area is needed. For further information, contact Ranger John Jennings at 707-986-7510 or Mel Lynn at Box 242, Whitethorn, Ca. 95498.

Anyone wishing to visit can contact Mel Lynn.

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PURPOSES OF THE CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION:

...to promote throughout the State of California the preservation of wild lands as legally designated wilderness areas by carrying on an educational program concerning the value of wilderness and how it may be best used and preserved in the public interest by making and encouraging scientific studies concerning wilderness, and by enlisting public interest and cooperation in protecting existing or potential wilderness areas.

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The WILDERNESS RECORD is the bi-monthly publication of the California Wilderness Coalition. Address all correspondence to P.O. Box 429, Davis, Ca. 95616. Telephone is (916) 758-1380. Articles may be reprinted. Credit would be appreciated.

Annual Meeting Held

The CWC Annual Meeting was held February 4, 1978. People came from the Bay Area and Sacramento Area and from as far as the Mendocino coast!

The most important decision of the meeting was to expand the Board of Directors to 7 people. The existing three vacancies are to be filled by a person from Southern California, a person from the North coast area, and a person from the Bay Area. A nomination committee of Bob Schneider, Tim McKay and Harriet Allen was appointed. Those who which to suggest possible Board members should contact one of those three or write the CWC office.

The evening after the meetings consisted of a multi-course, enjoyable pot-luck dinner.

Polls Give BLM Mandate!

Two major public opinion polls give Bureau of Land Managment(BLM)a greater protection mandate for the California Desert. Managers of the 25 million acre California Desert Recreation area, the BLM recently commissioned the Gallup and Field organizations to assess public attitudes on use of the desert. The Gallup Poll surveyed nationwide and the Field Poll surveyed statewide; both showed strong public desire for protection of desert wildlife and ecology, scenery, and historical areas. Public opinion opposed further commercial development, mining and off-road vehicle activity.

The results of the 1977 polls culminate a dispute between off-road vehicle enthusiasts and conservationists over the earlier 1975 Field Poll. Although the 1975 poll also supported public concern for protection of the desert, off-the-road vehicle (ORV) supporters challenged the validity of the results which in part led BLM to re-commission another poll. Environmental sentiment increased from the 1975 to 1977 polls.

The recent Gallup and Field polls are more than just cheerful news; they are valuable tools we should make a concerted effort to use. At no other time in the course of the conservation movement has such a strong public mandate been demonstrated in public polls for a particular resource area. The **opportunity** to make this information work for our **goals** should not be missed. Polls are the kind of "stuff" that legislators listen to and understand. Although foot dragging in the past, Bureau of Land Management administrators should find these recent polls hard to ignore. The polls can be used to assess future BLM actions. Hopefully, BLM will consider public viewpoint and move more decidedly now to protect the California Desert.

A case in point, the Eureka Dunes story demonstrates the importance of reputable public opinion polls. Active citizens who fought that battle are quick to point out the strong affect polls had on their victory in protecting the Dunes. The Field Poll added the important dimension of public viewpoint that showed a greater desire for protection of the California Desert. Although mounds of scientific testimony came forth supporting the need to protect the fragile dunes, BLM could have decided not to close the dunes to recreation vehicles simply by considering off-road vehicle values more important than preservation values. Local and state legislators involved in the process of the decision were quite influenced by the information from the polls.

The 1975 Field Poll was only a beginning. The 1977 polls are even more convincing. They can be used to quantify and substantiate our position in the California Desert. As you write letters or testify, use the summary of the polls from our article. For more detailed information or the full poll results, write the Bureau of Land Management at the State office, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacto, Ca. 95814

The following graphics outline the most important results of the poll on public opinion about the desert.

Field Poll - 1977

Desert Activities engaged in by those visiting the California Desert within the past year or so.

	%
Sightseeing and driving for pleasure	46
Sightseeing and exploring	32
Picnicking	31
Camping in developed campground	29
Hiking	24
Photography	24
Camping at undeveloped sites	23
Rock climbing	14
Backpacking	14
Motorcycle riding (non-competit.)	14
Water activities on Colorado River	12
Target Shooting	12
Educational activities	11
Rock and mineral collecting	9
Four wheel driving	8
Horseback riding	8
Hunting	7
Dunebuggying	6
Water activities on Salton Sea	6
Birdwatching	4
Painting	3
Prospecting as a hobby	3
Scientific research	1
Motorcycle riding (competitive)	1
Sand Sailing	1
Hang gliding	1
None of these activities	23

Gallup Poll - 1977 - excerpts

What people would like to see more of, and less of in the Desert

	% More of	% Less of
Protect wildlife and ecology	81	1
Protect scenery	73	2
Protect historical areas	67	2
Control recreation and other uses	58	5
Campgrounds	47	16
Roads	21	28
Off-road vehicle areas	23	46
Commercial development	16	57

Field Poll - 1977 - excerpts

same question as above

	%	%
Primitive areas	53	3
Energy development	35	27

Field Poll - 1977

Desert activities which people, who have visited the Desert in the past year or so, find objectionable.
(most frequently mentioned)

	%
Motorcycling (non-competitive)	38
Motorcycling (competitive)	36
Dunebuggying	31
Hunting	21
Target shooting	20
Four-wheel driving	20
Camping at undeveloped sites	6
Sandsailing	5
Hang gliding	4

EAST MOJAVE UPDATE

By Peter Burk

In 1977 the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) established four small wilderness study areas in the Eastern Mojave: Providence Mountains, New York Mountains, Granite Mountains, and Piute Range. These are the first BLM wilderness study areas in the nation. The Citizens For A Mojave National Park has taken the lead in helping protect these new wilderness study areas. Particularly vulnerable is Fourth of July Canyon in the New York Mountains Wilderness Study Area. So far, the recreational subdivision on private land in Fourth of July Canyon has not been approved. On December 22, the San Bernardino County Planning Commission voted 4-3 to reject the subdivision application. However, it is now being appealed to the County Board of Supervisors. Unfortunately, BLM failed to designate several other outstanding areas for wilderness study. Certainly Castle Peaks, Clark Mountain, Woods mountains and the Kelso Sand Dunes should have been South Providence Mountains, Cima Dome, and Mojave Cinder cones.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 established the California Desert Conservation Area. There were hopes that BLM would conform to the law and begin protecting the outstanding areas of the California Desert. These hopes were dashed in 1977 when the Bureau issued its East Mojave draft Management Framework Plan. This draft plan is an incoherent, piecemeal plan of multiple use/multiple abuse with something for everybody. BLM refers to the East Mojave as "the Gem of the California Desert." But at the same time, it plans for its piecemeal destruction. National Park status seems to be the only way to protect this magnificent area.

Seventeen organizations now support the establishment of a Mojave National Park. Some of them include: Desert Protective Council, California Native Plant Society, California Wilderness Coalition, San Bernardino County Museum Association, San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society, Desert Holly Garden Club, Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee, Oregon High Desert Study Group, Sierra Club, Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, and others.

California Condors have been reported as being seen in the Eastern Mojave for several years. Recently, the area manager of the Providence Mountains State Recreation Area positively identified a California condor (Gymnogyps californianus). Only a few dozen pairs of this magnificent bird still exist. The forty or so remaining individuals of this endangered species have concentrated in the Los Padres National Forest. Perhaps this same condor that was sighted in the Eastern Mojave is the same one sighted in Joshua Tree National Monument. With a wingspan exceeding nine feet, the California Condor is the largest bird in North America. Measures must be taken to protect the new habitat of this endangered species.

We need more help if we are to protect the outstanding resources of the Eastern Mojave. We need letters to Congressmen and Senators. We need to lobby the California Desert Conservation Area Advisory committee. We need financial contributions to help continue our educational and publicity efforts. You can join the Citizens For A Mojave National Park by sending $5 to PO Box 106, Barstow, California, 92311. Your membership contribution will help protect the desert.

Six Rivers ORV Plan

The Six Rivers National Forest has released an Environmental Analysis with a number of ORV management alternatives. The Forest Supervisor is asking for comments on possible ORV plans and intends to select an alternative during March. At the present time he states that he is inclined to select Alternative 2a, a proposal that would leave **totally open** 94% (922,200 acres) of the Forest while closing or just **restricting** use on the remaining 54,300 acres.

Environmentalists have proprosed a plan (Alternative 5) that would require public lands to be closed to ORV use unless ORV users could show that specific trails or areas could be used in an environmentally and socially sound manner.

The Forest Supervisor justifies his lack of ORV restrictions by arguing that ORV use in Six Rivers country is light when compared to other areas of the State. Since there is less use here than on the overrun Forests further south, there is no need to protect soils, wildlife (including endangered species), water quality, or cultural resources.

In fact, ORV use is now permitted on almost all of the trails in the entire Six Rivers National Forest. There are few places that a hiker, horse rider, or cross-country skier can travel and know that he or she won't be confronted by a machine.

More than one-third of the Six Rivers National Forest has been inventoried as roadless under the ongoing **RAREII** process. Areas such as the Siskiyous, Big Butte-Shinbone, and portions of the Yolla Bolly Wilderness additions and proposed Trinity Alps Wilderness are currently open to off-road vehicles.

CWC Sponsored Businesses

Like any political organization, California Wilderness Coalition depends on sponsorship and support. The organization is grateful to the following businesses that have been able to see beyond just selling their products to the great need to preserve the wilderness in which their products are used.

New World Outfitters
1055 Market St.
San Francisco, Ca. 94103

Antelope Camping Equipment Mfg. Co.
21740 Granada Ave.
Cupertino, Ca. 95014
408-253-1913

Solano Ski Sport
1215 Tabor Ave.
Fairfield, Ca. 94533
707-422-1705

The Smilie Company
575 Howard St.
San Francisco, Ca. 94105
415-421-2459

Alpine Products, Inc.
P.O.Box 403
West Sacramento, Ca. 95691
916-372-2861

The Alpine Supply Co.
130 G Street
Davis, Ca. 95616
916-756-2241

The Mountain Shop, Inc.
228 Grant Ave.
San Francisco, Ca. 94108
415-362-8477

Sheep Mt. Decision Time

by Bob McDonnell, Chairman, Sheep Mt. Task Force

The future of the proposed Sheep Mountain Wilderness may be decided very soon. This beautiful de facto wilderness region is remote and wild, yet lies only a few miles north of the Los Angeles basin within the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests. It has been proposed for inclusion in the wilderness system since the late 1960's. Presently the U.S. Forest Service is completing their study of the area and will forward recommendations to Congress in October, 1978. Forest Service hearings, to be held this spring, will help shape that agency's final recommendation. Thus, the hearings are of critical importance for the future of the region. If the Congress designates the area to be a part of the National Wilderness Preservation System, it will be managed so as to maintain its outstanding primeval character and this unique portion of our natural heritage will remain available for our enjoyment and for the enjoyment of the generations to come.

THE RESOURCE

The proposed Sheep Mountain Wilderness is remote, rugged and rich in scenic grandeur. The terrain includes the headwaters of the northern and western drainages of Mt. Baldy, the highest of the *San Gabriel peaks. Here lie* peaks over 9,000 feet high, several of which are important summer range for the Nelson bighorn sheep. Anchoring the northwest corner of the area is massive Mt. Baden-Powell, separated from Mt. Baldy by the deep gash of the Upper East Fork of the San Gabriel River.

Plants and animals exist together here in a habitat that is still largely undisturbed. Streams in the region support a native fishery, and provide sustenance for species such as bighorn sheep and mule deer. Golden eagles fly overhead. Stands of big cone Douglas fir, pines, riparian vegetation, and a chaparral influence in the south add variety. The area contains relics of the brief burst of mining activity that once spread through the range.

THE FOREST SERVICE ALTERNATIVES

This spring, the Forest Service is presenting five alternatives for public comment. At this time they are recommending Alternative A, but this may change with sufficient public input.

In our view, none of the Forest Service alternatives are satisfactory.

The Forest Service alternatives are:

A. This is the present recommendation of the Forest Service. Approximately 28,000 acres would be designated as wilderness. Omitted from wilderness are the highly desirable areas of the East Fork Narrows downstream to Swan Rock, lower Coldwater Canyon, the north slope of Devils Backbone, Pine Mountain Ridge, and the northeast face of Mt. Baden-Powell. These omissions include some of the most spectacular scenery in the range.

B. This alternative has no wilderness allotment, and designates back-country management. There would be no Congressional directive to maintain the area in its natural state.

C. The emphasis of alternative C is the management of the bighorn sheep, and it does not include any wilderness.

D. Approximately 44,500 acres is designated as wilderness. The north slope of Devils Backbone is included as wilderness, but the continued omission of he other areas listed in Alternative A makes this an unsatisfactory alternative.

E. The entire 68,500 acre study area is designated as wilderness. This is an overkill. Such a large wilderness area would do a disservice to the public by placing many heavily used areas within the wilderness and cause limitations on existing uses.

THE CONSERVATIONIST ALTERNATIVE

The 45,000 acre conservationist proposal, shown on the accompanying map, was not selected as an alternative for study by the Forest Service. However, with sufficient public input, the Forest Service may yet modify their recommendation to the Congress. The Conservationist Alternative has been carefully selected so as to omit from wilderness most areas that currently receive heavy use, but to include lands so as to make this a very viable alternative. The Conservationist Alternative includes:

The Narrows, a spectacularly rugged canyon. Here the old concrete arch bridge (all that remains of an ill-fated 1930's venture in road construction) gives the hiker a feeling of wonderment and awe at the power of the natural forces carving our mountains.

Lower Coldwater Canyon. The few cabins here should be a private enclave within wilderness, as this canyon is too special to be left out. The Wilderness Act allows reasonable access to private property that lies within wilderness areas.

The North Slope of Devils Backbone. Here are found spectacular vistas, rugged and remote terrain, and bighorn sheep. Expansion of downhill skiing has been proposed, but has been shown to be uneconomic. Ski expansion here would also seriously impact on the bighorn, and on several plant species currently being considered for threatened or endangered status.

Pine Mountain Ridge. Salvage logging took place here twenty-five years ago, but the area is recovering. The rough dirt road should be closed and returned to nature as the area has high wilderness potential and is adjacent to important sheep area.

The Northwest Face of Mt. Baden-Powell. Here again we find beautiful high mountain scenery, and also the historic Big Horn Mine.

This mine, long dormant, was most active in the first decade of this century. Because it lies on private land, it could again be brought into production. This unlikely possibility is allowed by the Wilderness Act.

ACTION TO TAKE

Watch for the U.S. Forest Service announcement of public hearings. Attend if you can, and speak out for the 45,000 acre Conservationist Proposal. This wilderness proposal contains the deep gash of he Narrows, beautiful lower Coldwater canyon, the north slope of Devils Backbone and the Dawson Peak region, the north-east face of massive Mt. Baden-Powell, and Pine Mountain Ridge, as well as the range of the East Fork Herd of Nelson bighorn sheep. Too many omissions make the present Forest Service recommendation very undesireable. If you are unable to testify at the public hearing send written testimony. With your help, a spectacular 45,000 acre wilderness will be a reality. For more information contact:

Bob McDonnell, chairman
Sheep Mt. Task Force,
Sierra Club
1301 E. Meda Avenue
Glendora, Ca. 91740
213 335-1012
or
Dee Trent
344 Taylor Drive
Claremont, Ca. 91711
714 621-1122

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News Briefs

FEATHER RIVER PLANNING UNIT

On January 25th the Plumas National Forest announced discontinuance of the existing land management planning effort on the Feather River Planning Unit. They will determine the future of this area through the **RAREII** process and Forest-wide planning.

The former planning unit included the wild river zone and the roadless area of the Middle Fork Feather River as well as the Bucks Lake and Chips Creek roadless areas. Because of the reorganization, the Chips Creek area will be studied by Lassen National Forest personnel, according to Plumas Supervisor Lloyd Britton.

SAN GABRIEL PLANNING UNIT

The Angeles NationalForest announced completion of their Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the San GabrielPlanning Unit. There are six alternative plans in the study, but none are committed to implementation.

The planning unit contains the 36,000 acre San Gabriel Wilderness, the 5,800 acre Cucamonga Inventoried Roadless Area, 55,000 acres of the Sheep Mountain Wilderness Study Area, the 6,060 acre San Dimas undeveloped area, and the 17,000 acre San Dimas Experimental Forest.

For further information, contact the Forest Supervisor, Angeles National Forest, 150 South Los Robles Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101.

SIERRA FOREST PLAN

The Sierra National forest released their Land Management Plan - Part 1 for the entire Forest. The report presents three alternative plans of management. Deadline for comment is March 31, 1978.

Alternative 1 gives preference to maintaining a near natural environment, Alternative 3 emphasizes production of goods and services, and Alternative 2 purports to be a mix of the two extremes.

Comments on the alternatives should be sent to Robert Spivey, Deputy Forest Supervisor, Sierra National Forest, Federal Building, 1130 O Street, Room 3017, Fresno, CA 93721. Copies of the plan may also be obtained from this address.

The Top of The World

the woods now so close;
the snow bending
the boughs just short of breaking.
the red service berries
and rose hips puckering
on the bare stems
to which the birds gather nervously
with a swiftness that defies winter
stiff in her hearth.

by Alan Meerow

con't from pg. 1- Poll

Only 7 percent say there is "too much" wilderness and 32 percent say "too little." (Males 18-29 in age say "too little" by 51 percent. Overall, 47 percent say "about right," but it would be erroneous to believe this group would oppose new wilderness areas; this simply is an expression of satisfaction.)

Among the 7 percent who say there is "too much" wilderness, economic reasons are most important. The argument that "only a few benefit" from wilderness areas appeals to only 3 percent of this already small group. These percentages (who accept the "elitist" argument) probably are too small to have any significance, but 11 percent of nonwhites say "too much," against 7 percent for whites.

Those who answer "too little" responded in several ways, all reflecting concern that wilderness and wildlife habitat are being lost to development and population pressures. (This parallels concern found among the leadership in other surveys.)

Picnic areas (36 percent) and campgrounds (35 percent) are about equal in leading the list of facilities the public believes should be expanded. Bicycle trails and accessible hiking trails (both 31 percent) are next, followed by beaches and remote hiking trails (both 29 percent) and construction of remote huts and shelters (26 percent). The rankings are about the same for all demographic groups, except among the 18-29 age group, where remote hiking trails vastly outrank everything else.

Non-whites, who are virtually excluded from forest-related recreation, have slightly different expansion goals, but remote hiking outranks more accessible facilities even here.

con't from pg. 1- Shasta

approval to Shasta-Trinities' Wilderness proposal. These VIP's are being asked to knock section 30 out of the Wilderness and give Ski Shasta permission to build its access chairlift into section 25.

PUTTING IT INTO PERSPECTIVE

So, you may ask, what's so important about section 30, that we should not give Ski Shasta 400 acres of it?

The U.S.F.S proposed Mount Shasta Wilderness contains 25,000 acres, of which only 6,000 have vegetation of any kind, the remainder being the bare rock and ice of the peak itself. Of the 6,000 vegetated acres, less than half consist of scattered stands of the magnificent and threatened Shasta red fir. the largest and purest of these stands **is section 30.** The other Shasta red fir stands are so small and widely scattered, that if the Forest Service proposal minus section 30 were to become law, there would be no significant Shasta red fir preserved on Mount Shasta. If this is to be, we will have lost the most important natural feature worth saving on the mountain.

Maybe we could afford to lose the Shasta red fir if it were for a really good ski area. However, the proposed resort in sections 25 and 30, is truly mediocre. Its badly jumbled slopes have too sunny south to west exposures, and the elevation is too low for consistant snow. Strong local opposition to the proposal is developing strictly on these and other practical grounds. Also, Ski Shasta has not said it will try and tie in sections 25 and 30 to the existing resort, making an even more horrendous economic and environmental boondoggle.